

who has had the opportunity of working with Connie Newman over the years, I have full confidence in her fairness, in her thoroughness, and in her impartiality.

The collective experience, knowledge, and insight of the commission will provide a firm basis for an objective analysis of the Customs Service's methods for carrying out this aspect of their mission.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sanford Cloud, the President of the National Conference for Community and Justice, has been selected to be an independent advisor to the Commission of the Customs Service on personal search matters.

In this time of change at Customs, it is imperative that Congress be provided with the information to evaluate the modifications in personal search policy. That is why we intend for this report to be prepared by the Customs Service with the approval of the Secretary of Treasury and Under Secretary for Enforcement on the changes and its implementation.

I thank the chairman for allowing us to clarify this matter so that we fully understand the import of the language that is included in our bill.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN).

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona (Chairman KOLBE) for yielding me the time, and I do want to express my appreciation to him and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER). They had a difficult job this year within the parameters that were given to them. In the Treasury, Postal, there is no question of very key important facets to our Government agencies. I, however, wanted to speak, because I am adamantly opposed to this bill as it is written, and I wanted to spend a minute so that my colleagues can know why.

In this bill, we have a 4.8 percent increase for federal workers. A third of them will receive another 3 percent increase. That is a 7.8 percent increase. Now, as we look at what the average federal worker, and this comes from the Federal Government statistics, not my statistics, the average Federal Government worker who works in the D.C. area, Maryland, Virginia and the D.C. area, their present average salary is \$57,371.

With this increase, which is four-tenths of a percent above what the President asked for, they will receive on average a \$2,754 a year raise. That is \$1.40 an hour is what the average federal employee is.

Now, I want to contrast with, we are going to give our seniors in Social Security a 1.8 percent increase. That is what we are going to give the seniors that are out there struggling to make it on their Social Security.

The money that is going to be used to enhance the federal employees far above the level of the other people's average salary, and if my colleagues

look at the whole average federal employee salary in this country, \$44,886, which is 2½ times the average family income in the State of Oklahoma, that is what the average federal worker's salary is, they will receive over \$1 an hour increase.

The four-tenths of a percent increase above what the President requested, and do not get me wrong, I think we should increase the pay for federal employees, is a \$330 million bill. Do my colleagues know where that money is going to come from? It is going to come dead out of Social Security. So not only are we not supplying our seniors with what they should have through an equitable Social Security system, but what we are doing is we are taking \$330 million that ultimately will come from Social Security, because the agreement reached between the Congress and the President of the United States will be violated by the end of this year as far as the budget caps.

We just had the President say he is not going to pass the tax cut; and, yet, he is going to ask the Congress to spend more money. So if we are not going to give a tax cut to the American people and we are going to spend more money, then if we are going to do that, let us pony up a little bit more for the seniors. If we are going to steal their Social Security money anyway, why do we not give them more than a 1.8 percent cost of living adjustment that is not even covering their Medicare costs or their prescription drug costs.

There is a second reason that I am against this bill. I am not against child care. The Morella idea is a good idea. We should care for our children. But the extension of that idea will not work without ultimately what her bill, which will eventually be on the floor to authorize this, says, that there will be a federal mandated standard for federal child care centers.

The other thing about the Morella language that is in this bill is that it is discriminatory. Only can one have the federal benefit if one goes to a federally approved day care. If one wants one's neighbor to care for one's child, if one wants one's children to care for one's child, one does not get the benefit. So only if one comes to Big Daddy, Big Brother, will one get that benefit.

I would hope that the Members of this body will vote against this bill and put it back into perspective. We are not in position where we can give a \$2,000 a year raise to every federal employee.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am inclined to debate at length the presentation of the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the last speaker, but I understand his point. I do not agree with it.

In fact, I would make the observation that we have a system whereby the federal employees are compared with comparable positions in the private sector. That report is done pursuant to the Bu-

reau of Labor Statistics. In fact, for comparable work done in the regions of the country, it is done regionally so it is not over-inflated for high cost areas and low cost areas, but by region, our federal employees for comparable work done in the private sector are 20 to 30 percent behind.

Now, the reason the salaries sound high is because we have NIH scientists, we have NASA engineers, we have law enforcement officials that are skilled and, for instance, in FBI, college graduates, doing some of the most sophisticated criminal investigations possible and DEA and ATF and other agencies. We have at the IRS highly skilled and paid personnel to carry out very sophisticated financial responsibilities and analysis.

So that, yes, by comparison with the overall, they are high. But just as well, Michael Jordan's salary by comparison was high. I tell people that Abe Pollin could have gotten 100 people to apply for the Bullets at \$250,000 a year. There would have been no lack of people applying to play.

Now, the fact of the matter is Abe Pollin would never have won a game because, at \$250,000, which is a lot of money by our standards, by anybody's standards, he would not have gotten competitive ball players.

That is the nature of some of the things that we do in the federal service, very sophisticated, requiring highly skilled people. In the competitive market, one pays what the market pays.

As I pointed out before the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) got here, we just passed the defense authorization bill, I obviously do not know whether he voted for or against it, in which we included 4.8 percent adjustment for military pay because we want to keep them and we want to be able to recruit. The law calls for parity, and that is what we are providing for in this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ), the ranking member of the Committee on Small Business.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland from yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the conferees for including in this conference report my amendment which provides funding for grants to local and State programs to combat money laundering. This program is the linchpin of the anti-money laundering strategy outlined by my bill, the Money Laundering and Financial Strategy Act of 1998.

We all know how the plague of drugs continue to rock this country. In the United States alone, estimates put the amount of drug profits moving through the financial system as high as \$100 billion. We need to be serious about facing down this threat. Indeed, recent revelations about Russian organized crime laundering money through the Bank of